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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, AUDITORS

AND

Superintending School Committee,

OF THE

TOWN OF EPPING, N. H.,

FOR THE

Financial Year Ending March 1st,

1877.

EXETER :

GAZETTE STEAM PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

1877.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

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REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND TREASURER.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The Selectmen and Treasurer charge themselves with cash received of N. G. Plumer, treasurer last year,	\$ 1856 47
Martin V. Fogg, Collector, 1874,	12 94
Luther J. Holt, " 1875,	660 04
List of taxes assessed and committed to Luther J. Holt for collection,	10051 11
Received of State Railroad money,	220 90
" " " Savings Bank tax,	464 31
" " " Literary Fund,	112 95
" " County,	202 08
Hired of sundry persons,	8226 59
	\$21807 34

They credit themselves with paid State Treasurer State tax,	\$1512 00
Paid County Treasurer County tax,	1536 52
Notes and interest to sundry persons, amounting to the sum of	11653 10

PAID FOR SCHOOLS.

District No. 1,	\$601 97	
“ “ 2,	93 78	
“ “ 3,	142 53	
“ “ 4,	126 15	
“ “ 5,	168 57	
“ “ 6,	136 33	
“ “ 7,	164 60	
		\$1433 93
District No. 5 school-house tax,	\$40 00	
“ “ 3 “ “	20 00	
		\$60 00
John A. Wiggin, school tax for 1875 and 1876,	12 91	
Non-resident tax,	37 37	
Selectmen's services last year,	4 50	
WILLIAM R. BUNKER, services as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor, in and out of town.		
1876.		
March 16, $\frac{1}{2}$ day in session at town house appoint- ing town officers,		\$ 1 00
20, Journey to Exeter on town business,		1 75
31, $\frac{1}{2}$ day in session,		1 00
April 1, 3, 5, 7,—4 days self and horse taking inventory,		10 50
10, 11,—in session,		2 00
21, 22, 26,—3 days making taxes,		5 25
May 2, 1-2 day on town business,		1 00
3, 4—1 1-2 days making taxes and other town business,		2 50
6, 1 day filling surveyor's warrants,		1 75
8, 1-2 day in session,		1 00
12, 1-2 day on town business,		1 00

May	13, 1 day self and horse deliivering survey- ors warrants,	3 00
	18, 1 day filling Collector's book,	1 75
	23, 1-2 " " " "	1 00
	25, 1-2 " hearing on fire district,	1 00
	26, 27,—2 days self and horse with Geo. N. Shepard running line for fire district,	7 00
June	2, 1 day on R. Pike road case before referees,	1 75
	15, Journey to French and Blake road,	1 00
	19, 20, 21,—3 days copying taxes,	5 25
	29, 1 day on town business,	1 75
Sept.	6, Journey to West Epping,	75
	20, 1 day making school tax,	1 75
	22, 1 day making school tax & other business,	1 75
Oct.	7, Journey to High Road and Rocky Lane,	75
	20, 1 day to Portsmouth on Lane case,	1 75
	20, Car fare and expenses,	1 50
	21, 1-2 day in session,	1 00
Dec.	16, 1-2 " " "	1 00
	28, 1-2 " " "	1 00
1877.		
Jan.	13, 1-2 day in session,	1 00
	13, Journey to Mrs. Shannon's to see about Joseph Tuttle,	75
	24, Journey to Mrs. Shannon's,	75
	24, " to West Epping, on account pauper,	75
	27, 1-2 day in session,	1 00
Feb.	10, 1-2 " " "	1 00
	21, 1 " " "	1 75
	23, 1 " making check-lists,	1 75
	24, 1-2 " in session,	1 00
	27, 1 " " "	1 75
	28, 1-2 " " "	1 00
March	1, 1 " " "	1 75
		\$77 75

GEORGE S. RUNDLETT, services as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor, in and out of town, and expenses.

1876.

March	16, 1-2 day in session appointing town officers,	\$ 1 00
	25, Journey to Exeter on town business,	1 75
	31, 1-2 day in session at W. R. Bunker's,	1 00
April	1, 3, 5, 7,—4 days self and horse, taking inventory,	10 50
	10, 11,—In session,	2 00
	18, Journey to Exeter on Lane case,	1 00
	20, 1 day self and horse to Brentwood and other places, on Lane case,	3 00
	21, 22, 26,—3 days making taxes,	5 25
May	2, 1-2 day on town business,	1 00
	3, 4, 1 1-2 days making taxes and other town business,	2 50
	6, 1 day filling surveyors warrants,	1 75
	8, 1-2 day in session,	1 00
	12, 1-2 " on town business,	1 00
	13, 1 day self and horse delivering surveyors warrants,	3 00
	18, 1 day filling Collector's books,	1 75
	23, 1-2 " " " "	1 00
	25, 1-2 " hearing on fire district,	1 00
	26, 27,—2 days with G. N. Shepard running line for fire district,	3 50
June	2, 1 day on Robert Pike's case before referees,	1 75
	9, Journey to French and Blake roads, self and horse	1 00
	19, 20, 21,—3 days copying invoice,	5 25
	22, Journey to Deerfield and expenses, on account of pauper,	3 00
	29, 1 day on town business,	1 75
July	6, Journey to Brentwood on acc't of pauper,	1 00
	11, Journey to James Eaton's and Brentwood on account of pauper,	1 50

Sept.	6, Journey to West Epping,	75
	20, 1 day making school taxes,	1 75
	22, 1 day making school taxes & other business,	1 75
Oct.	7, Journey to High Road and Rocky Lane,	75
	20, 1 day to Portsmouth on Lane case,	1 75
	20, car fare and expenses,	1 50
	21, 1-2 day at town house,	1 00
Dec.	5, Journey to Concord on town business,	1 75
	5, car fare and expenses,	2 60
	16, 1-2 day in session at town house,	1 00
	28, 1-2 " " " " " "	1 00

1877.

Jan.	13, 1-2 day in session at town house,	1 00
	24, Journey to West Epping on acc't pauper,	50
	25, " " Exeter on town business,	2 50
	27, $\frac{1}{2}$ day in session at town house,	1 00
Feb.	10, $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " " " "	1 00
	21, 1 " " " " " "	1 75
	23, 1 " making check lists,	1 75
	24, $\frac{1}{2}$ " in session at town house,	1 00
	26, Journey to Lee and Nottingham on town business,	2 00
	27, 1 day in session,	1 75
	28, $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " at W. R. Bunker's,	1 00
		\$90 10

JOHN S. BLAISDELL, services as Selectman and Overseer of
the Poor, in and out of town.

1876.

March	16, 1-2 day in session,	1 00
	31, 1-2 " on town business,	1 00
	1, 3, 6, 7,—4 days taking inventory,	7 50
	10, 1-2 day in session,	1 00
	11, 1-2 " on town business,	1 00
	21, 22,—2 days on town business,	2 75

May	6, 1-2 day filling surveyors warrants,	1 00
	8, 1-2 day on town business,	1 00
	13, 1 day distributing surveyors warrants,	2 25
	25, 1-2 day on town business,	1 00
	26, 27—2 days running line for fire district,	3 50
June	2, 1 day at Robert Pike's before referees on road case,	1 75
	21, 1 1-2 day copying invoice,	2 75
	22, 1 day buying gravel pit and other town business	1 75
Sept.	13, 1-2 day on town business,	1 00
Oct.	6, Journey to West Epping, self and horse,	1 00
	7, 1 day on town business, " " "	2 00
	13, 1-2 day, self and horse, on town business,	1 25
	28, 1-2 " in session,	1 00
Nov.	1-2 " on town business,	1 00
	Paid J. Sanborn, examining bridge,	1 00
	6, 1-2 day labor, and lumber at town house,	1 75
	14, Journey to West Epping and Nottingham, self and horse,	2 00
Dec.	16, 1-2 day in session,	1 00
	17, 1-2 " revising jury box,	1 00
1877.		
Jan.	27, 1-2 day in session,	1 00
Feb.	10, 1-2 " " "	1 00
	21, 1 " " "	1 75
	23, 1 day making check lists and other business,	1 75
	24, 1-2 day in session,	1 00
	28, 1-2 " " "	1 00
March	1, 1 " " "	1 75
		\$52 50

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Paid Geo. E. Lane, books and stationery,	3 50
Albert M. Davis, damage by dogs,	6 24
Daniel Row, " "	3 56
C. C. Pearson & Co., printing tax bills,	4 00
Geo K. Perkins damage by dogs,	4 46
J. S. Hook care of Town house 1875,	10 00
C. H. Knox, telegram to Exeter in regard to death of G. W. Smart,	55
J. H. Locke, police duty and care of tramps,	5 00
J. D. P. Wingate, printing town reports 1875,	40 00
J. P. Sanborn, services with hearse,	14 00
E. C. Brown, land for gravel,	40 00
R. W. Musgrove, printing school notices,	1 00
J. Getchell, sealing weights and measures,	1 80
Geo. W. Hopkinson, record book and journey to Exeter,	3 70
John J. and Ellen S. Lane, damage,	425 00
Robert Pike, damage awarded for land for high- way,	858 50
H. G. Burley, damage to carriage,	5 65
Geo. E. Lane, Invoice record book and express,	8 15
H. B. Miles, surveying lumber,	54
John Sanborn, damage by dogs,	59 76
Frank E. Bean, services as Constable,	4 50
" care of tramps,	7 50
Geo. E. Lane, paper etc.	2 50
J. F. Robinson, damage by dogs,	8 92
Morrill & Silsby, 2 broad indexes,	1 00
Wiggin & Fernald, advice at various times in 1875,	19 00
" legal services in Law suit,	110 25
R. F. Emerson, services as Constable,	3 00
A. R. Thompson " Town clerk,	35 00
Bean & Tilton, making ballot box and other labor,	3 25

Paid H. B. Burnham, making affidavits at sundry times,	2 00
" services as Supt. School Com.,	40 00
J. Garland, services on R. Pike road case,	2 00
J. S. Bunker, services as Constable,	3 00
L. F. Cate, " "	1 50
J. H. Locke, care of tramps etc.,	20 75
L. E. Fogg, Fogg's donation to ministry,	6 00
L. J. Holt, services as collector,	100 00
Geo. S. Rundlett, services as Treasurer,	35 00
Wm. R. Bunker, Selectmen's expenses,	9 50
	\$1,910 08

SUPPLIES AND SUPPORT OF POOR.

Paid Thomas Taylor, board, car fare and expense	
Jennie Lowell,	\$13 60
James Eaton, board Grace Noyes,	30 00
Burnham & Gibbs, visits to G. W. Smart,	2 00
F. Ham, 2 boxes and coffin for "	15 00
B. F. Brown, care of remains and expense at	
death of G. Smart,	10 00
John Leddy, supplies for J. W. Purington,	40 00
N. Bachelder, visits to Mrs. Trimble and others,	4 50
H. B. Burnham, medicine and attendance to	
Joseph Tuttle,	23 75
W. R. Bunker, goods furnished J. W. Purington,	90 00
" goods furnished Mrs. Shannon, Jr.	
and Joseph Tuttle,	11 25
" supplies furnished for tramps, etc.,	12 78
	\$252 85

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid D. D. Cook, labor on highway,	4 88
J. F. Davis “	6 75
P. Canick, labor on mill road,	4 50
B. S. Clifford, “ “	15 66
J. H. Tilton, stone for bridge,	5 00
A. W. Locke, labor on road,	3 75
L. N. Clifford “	3 50
M. C. Nichols “	9 00
J. H. Locke “ and stone for culvert,	19 00
G. W. Burley, labor on road,	4 50
J. F. Davis “	7 37
G. C. Sanborn “	5 43
G. B. Brown “	6 00
J. S. Bunker, labor on culverts,	19 00
M. J. Harvey, gravel etc.,	5 00
W. F. Durgin, labor on road,	15 00
E. F. Barber, labor and material for bridges,	6 00
William Hazelton, labor on drain,	4 25
J. C. Edgerly labor on road,	18 37
Robert Beals, “ culvert,	2 00
G. E. Garland, labor on road,	94
Marshall King “ bridge,	5 00
C. A. & E. E. Miles, plank and timber,	11 46
G. W. Ordway, labor on road,	19 04
Walter Durgin “	13 50
W. L. Plumer, stone for culvert,	4 78
“ labor on road and damage to plow,	8 50
D. Edgerly, bridge plank,	52 07
Stephen Bly, labor on Watchic bridge,	9 75
John Sanborn “ road and timber,	4 00
D. E. Cilley, bridge plank,	80 08
J. F. Knight, oak posts,	2 00
J. R. Colbath, labor on roads,	4 30
C. F. Edgerly, bridge plank,	34 95

Paid J. McNeal, labor on bridge,	1 50
J. Clough, " " and road,	5 21
H. Leach, " " gravel and strings for bridge,	15 10
Jacob Wiggin, labor on bridge,	3 00
D. Kennard " road and bridges and gravel,	16 19
Samuel Plumer, labor on road and bridges,	14 62
J. S. Hook, labor on road and bridges,	4 50
Lydia W. Ladd, labor on road and bridges and lumber,	7 12
J. G. Ordway, labor on road and stone,	28 00
J. H. Locke, " road and stone,	10 00
D. F. Bartlett, labor on roads,	6 00
C. S. Burnham, "	6 00
N. H. Bennett, "	5 78
Benj. Johnson, "	9 12
W. H. Tilton, "	2 00
B. S. Clifford, covering stone,	2 00
G. C. Jones, labor on Folsom bridge,	1 50
Martin V Fogg, labor on roads,	2 00
Thomas Lally, "	5 05
Joshua Wiggin,	25 50
George R. Stevens,	10 00
Charles N. Coffin,	7 00
Joseph N. Coffin,	3 75
Thomas Hopkinson, labor on roads and bridges and bridge plank,	22 00
Joseph B. Page, hauling rocks and plank,	7 50
J. H. Witham labor on roads,	9 75
L. N. Clifford, labor and material for bridges,	5 00
Geo. H. Bean, labor on roads,	15 70
Levi Thompson, for gravel,	4 69
J. H. Bly, "	88
Robert Pike, "	3 00
David Edgerly, for labor on roads,	12 00
Chase P. Blake, "	44 55

Paid John L. Folsom, labor on bridge,	2 00
Robert Pike for gravel,	8 50
J. G. Mallard, labor on roads,	14 99
E. C. Brown, “	3 70
labor and gravel,	12 48
J. S. Bunker, labor on roads and bridges,	11 50
S. G. Sanborn, digging ditch and moving fence,	5 00
W. R. Bunker, labor and material,	47 10
J. B. Page, drawing plank,	1 00
J. M. Godfrey, labor on bridge strings,	3 30
Joseph Stokes, labor on roads,	1 82
George Ransbottom, damage to axle broken in highway,	2 75
Dudley L. Harvey, plow broken,	3 00
Lyman F. Cate, labor,	13 50
Z. Sanborn, land and damage in widening roads,	25 00
	\$887 48

BREAKING ROADS.

Paid for breaking roads in the several highway districts, bills approved by the several highway surveyors as follows:

District No. 1, John L. Folsom, Surveyor.

Paid Thomas C. Folsom,	\$1 50
Israel F. Norris,	1 70
	\$3 20

District No. 2, Eben K. Jenness, Surveyor.

D. B. Rogers,	4 59
Daniel True,	2 43
J. L. Folsom,	2 25
I. F. Norris,	1 12
	10 39

District No. 3, Daniel W. Nayson, Surveyor.

Charles Norris,	4 48
Robert Thompson,	9 29

13 77

District No. 4, Joshua Wiggin, Surveyor.

Erastus Cutting,	4 50
J. Wiggin,	13 25

17 75

District No. 5, John G. Ordway, Surveyor.

J. F. Knight,	10 00
J. G. Ordway,	5 33

15 33

District No. 6, R. F. Emerson, Surveyor.

R. F. Emerson,	5 99
J. S. Hook,	1 50
Frank Chase,	4 87

12 36

District No. 7, Josiah Dearborn, Surveyor.

C. H. Doe,	6 44
J. Dearborn,	16 00
W. A. Parks,	1 48

23 92

District No. 8, J. F. Davis, Surveyor.

J. F. Davis,	4 30
Stephen Heath,	1 50
L. N. Clifford,	4 87
C. P. Blake,	6 75
S. G. Sanborn,	2 25

19 67

District No. 9, M. O. Nichols, Surveyor.

B. S. Clifford,	14 80
M. O. Nichols,	14 56
A. Floyd,	3 84
O. H. Bickford,	4 50
G. R. Stevens,	14 98
D. Johnson,	11 71
John Colby,	3 00
G. O. Sanborn,	15 00
G. W. Burley,	4 68
J. B. Dow,	10 57

97 64

District No. 10, C. S. Burnham, Surveyor.

John Sanborn,	23 00
C. S. Burnham,	7 50
J. Quint,	1 87

32 37

District No. 11, J. O. Edgerly, Surveyor.

J. O. Edgerly,	6 12
W. F. Durgin,	4 50
E. R. Tuttle,	2 25
Walter Durgin,	3 75

16 62

District No. 12, D. L. Harvey, Surveyor.

Geo. Rowe,	5 42
M. V. Fogg,	4 50
S. P. Ladd,	7 03
J. R. Dame,	1 25
M. J. Harvey,	6 55
R. B. Dame,	75
D. L. Harvey,	8 70

34 20

District No. 13, C. N. Coffin, Surveyor.

J. R. Colbath,	3 62
C. N. Coffin,	4 41
D. F. Bartlett,	7 50

15 53

District No. 14, J. Garland, Surveyor.

M. J. Harvey,	75
S. P. Ladd,	3 75
J. Garland,	3 75

8 25

District No. 15, J. G. Mallard, Surveyor.

J. H. Boody,	4 12
J. H. Tilton,	6 50
J. G. Mallard,	10 68

21 30

District No. 16, Orlando S. Langley, Surveyor.

District No. 17, L. F. Cate, Surveyor.

David Edgerly,	14 23
Robert Pike,	8 43
L. F. Cate,	4 50

27 16

District No. 18, T. Hopkinson, Surveyor.

District No. 19, Stephen Holt, Surveyor.

Stephen Holt,	15 75
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District No. 20, J. Emerson, Surveyor.

J. E. Cilley,	3 08
J. Emerson,	4 02

7 10

District No. 21, D. C. Edgerly, Surveyor.

D. C. Edgerly,	7 12
N. Burnham,	3 37
M. J. Harvey,	1 00
S. P. Ladd,	3 00
Geo. Rowe,	1 81
C. F. Edgerly,	2 99

19 29

District No. 22, W. R. Bunker, Surveyor.

District No. 23, E. F. Barber, Surveyor.

E. F. Barber and others,	30 06
E. F. Barber,	5 00
D. E. Smith,	4 63
J. A. Wiggin,	7 03

46 72

\$458 32

Paid E. F. Barber, breaking roads last year,	10 00
W. Durgin,	1 00
C. F. Edgerly,	2 75
J. E. Cilley,	66
D. B. Ladd,	2 00

16 41

Sundry abatements for the year 1874,	2 90
" " 1875,	24 29
" " 1876,	56 68

83 87

Cash in hands of L. J. Holt, collector 1875,	16 95
" " " 1876,	964 43
Cash in hands of Geo. S. Rundlett, town Treasurer,	746 27

 \$21,807 34

There has been paid during the past fiscal year outstanding claims against the town to the amount of \$1,283 50 viz: to John J. Lane, \$425, and to Robert Pike \$858 50.

WILLIAM R. BUNKER,	} Selectmen of Epping.
GEORGE S. RUNDLETT,	
JOHN S. BLAISDELL,	

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

We the undersigned, having examined the books and accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer, find them correctly cast with proper vouchers.

The Treasurer of 1876 reported \$2,207 97 in his hands. The present Treasurer received from the last \$1,856 47 the difference \$421 50 was paid out in liquidation of notes and bills against the town by last board of Selectmen,

From a memorandum of notes kept by the Treasurer of the Town we find the town indebtedness as follows :

Notes held by sundry persons,	\$21,647 47
Estimated interest,	1,669 98
Amount of indebtedness,	23,317 45
Cash in hands of L. J. Holt, collector for 1876,	964 43
Cash in hands of collector for 1875,	16 95
Cash in hands of Geo. S. Rundlett, Treasurer, 746 27-	1,727 27
Total indebtedness,	21,590 18

Epping, N. H., March 3, 1877.

H. B. BURNHAM,	} Auditors.
T. C. FOLSOM,	

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

It is customary in educational and other reports to congratulate those interested in reference to the progress made, and results attained, during the time over which the review extends.

It is certainly pleasing, and always encouraging, when such a view can truthfully be presented. That there has been a marked improvement in nearly all our schools the past year, must be evident to every one who has given the subject the slightest consideration. That our schools have attained that degree of excellence which they might and ought, is not true; that they even approximate such a standard is far from the truth, but that they are making some progress in the right direction, is most assuredly a cause of congratulation.

Our teachers certainly have higher qualifications, manifest a deeper interest, make use of better modes of instruction, and consequently accomplish greater good, than formerly. Superior text-books are used, and there is uniformity in them throughout the town. Our schools are gradually growing better, one year apparently making but little difference, but in ten or a dozen the advance is obvious.

The schools in District No. 1 have improved very much since they were graded. Although the grammar school has had an existence as such only two years, it is a fact that scholars at the age of eleven or twelve are further advanced than a majority of those who formerly left the school at the age of seventeen or eighteen.

There are still many obstacles to the progress of all our schools, which require some notice from your Committee, notwithstanding it is a repetition of what has been written and said for the past twenty years, and perhaps will require such repetition for twenty years to come.

The necessity of constant attendance on the part of pupils is not yet sufficiently understood by parents. Excuses are often granted, and scholars are permitted to remain at home or out of

school for the most trivial causes, and perhaps in some instances for no reason at all. The success of a school, and the reputation of a teacher depends very much upon the constancy of scholars, and a very grave responsibility rests upon parents, which a very cursory examination of the statistical table will show they do not as yet fully appreciate. There appears to be a disposition upon the part of pupils, parents, and I fear not always reluctantly acquiesced in by teachers, to close up the schoolroom and diminish the number of school hours for very trifling causes, such as a pretended preparation for fairs, levees, and the like; now, however worthy and commendable all such gatherings may be in themselves, they ought not be allowed to interfere with our schools. Our schools are necessarily limited in duration for want of funds, and it is the duty of parents, more particularly of school committees, to see that every dollar is judiciously expended, and the greatest possible benefit received for the expenditure.

The efficiency of our schools depends very much upon their management. The duties pertaining to the office of a school committee are of a most serious character. He who attempts their discharge should be as well educated at least as our best teachers. He ought to be well acquainted with the condition of the best schools in our State, so as to be able to select and recommend the most approved methods of teaching. He should have a knowledge of school books as only a student can have, so as to be able to adopt the best. He should understand the duties of the schoolroom only as one who has taught, can understand them. He should be decided, and never hesitate to pronounce that little word "no," whenever occasion requires it. He should be prompt, energetic, and above all, judicious in the discharge of every duty pertaining to his office. The prudential committee should be one who is interested in the success of the school, who uninfluenced by "fear or favor," will exert himself to secure the services of a first-class teacher, ever remembering "as the teacher, so is the school," and good teachers must be sought for and engaged early, for such usually have no occasion to go about in quest of a situation.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

E. H. PEARSON, *Prudential Committee.*

There were six terms in this district, three of the primary and three of the grammar school. Two terms of the primary

were taught by Miss Laura P. Leach. Miss Leach has had considerable experience in teaching; she has the advantage of having taught in the city of Lynn, and there learned their methods of instruction; she has also been a pupil of our State Normal school; in addition to this, she had taught the school two terms before, consequently knew her scholars, their attainments and capacity for learning, their dispositions and peculiarities generally, her success was anticipated, and it was satisfactory.

Our primary teachers have the most interesting trust of any, and it has truthfully been said that they should possess "an angel's wisdom, a mother's love, untiring hope, and inflexible firmness." We should never place teachers of least knowledge, experience and skill, in care of the smallest children. Their influence will be felt in all after-life, and there cannot be too much caution in selecting the guide and example of the "little ones." Miss Leach has all the qualifications requisite for teaching any school in our town, but she has an aptitude for instructing and influencing the young that few possess.

The third term was taught by Miss C. A. Jenness, in her usual thorough and systematic manner. It being late in the season, the traveling was bad and schoolroom cold, consequently the attendance was not so large, but the proficiency made was all that could be desired. At the close of this term there was an examination for entrance into the grammar school. A part only of the class were successful, the remainder had the privilege granted of another examination at the beginning of the next term. There should be some fixed standard of scholarship required of all who enter the grammar school. The teacher there is expected to devote all her time to the higher branches. The gradation of our schools will be useless unless there is a boundary line strictly observed between them.

Application was made to the principal of our State Normal school for a teacher for the grammar school. Upon his recommendation Miss C. T. Clark, a graduate of the third class, and a very amiable and intelligent young lady, was employed. Under her instruction the progress of the school was very good. The room, however, at times was a little noisy, and it is to be regretted that some of the larger pupils had not had a little more self-respect. Miss Clark having had the offer of a larger and a better school, refused to remain another term. Miss L. Cheney, a graduate of our Normal school, having acquired some distinction as a teacher in District No. 7, was employed. She was a

good disciplinarian, nothing about the schoolroom escaped her vigilance. Order she would and did have, and that easily, for she had the happy faculty of at once interesting her pupils in their studies, so they either had no desire or time for mischievous practices. Her instruction was thorough, the attention of her pupils during recitation she would have, every one in the class must know and understand every point in the lesson. Text-books held a secondary place, her instruction was practical. In consequence of her unremitting efforts and close application to the duties of the schoolroom, her health suffered, and she was under the necessity of leaving at the close of the second term.

The third term was taught by Miss Leach. The discipline was excellent. The progress made in the several branches pursued was unexceptionally good. During these three terms, the school was frequently visited, and the pupils examined from time to time in every branch taught, and near the close of each term there was a written examination. Nearly all the scholars acquitted themselves in a very creditable manner. It is annoying to our teachers to have some of their pupils attend so irregularly. Parents are culpable, and do a grievous wrong to their children in not sending them regularly.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

WILLIAM H. HODGDON, *Prudential Committee*.

There were two terms in this district, both taught by Miss E. F. Jones. Her school was orderly. The progress made by her little scholars was good. This district would do well to employ the same teacher another year.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

BENJAMIN JOHNSON, *Prudential Committee*.

There were two terms kept by Miss Clara A. Lane, a graduate of our Normal school. Miss Lane has acquired the reputation of a first-class instructress. Her discipline was faultless, and her methods of instruction modern, not confined to text-books, but given orally and presented in such a manner that her pupils could readily comprehend it. Notwithstanding the sessions of school in this district are necessarily limited, the standard of scholarship is excellent, and there are two of the best scholars in town whose names are worthy of mention, viz.: Miss Fannie Barber and Miss Annie Skeuye, since they are an

exemplification of what can be done by close application in the schoolroom, and a little effort at home. This district could do no better than employ Miss Lane again.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

O. SMITH LANGLEY, *Prudential Committee*.

There were three short terms in this district. The first kept by Mr. Charles Bartlett; it was his first effort at teaching. The school appeared very well at the commencement of the term; being out of town, I was unable to be present at its close. The second term was taught by Miss A. L. Bennett, who was a good disciplinarian, the room being very quiet, and scholars seemingly doing well. Her health failing she was obliged to leave, and Miss B. J. Hobbs was employed to finish, or rather keep a short term. It would be well for this district to employ an experienced teacher of known ability, for there are some advanced scholars of good mental capacity, who ought to have good instruction.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

D. F. BARTLETT, *Prudential Committee*.

There were two terms in this district, both taught by Miss Clara C. Jenness, who fully sustained her previous reputation as being one of our best teachers. Her school was orderly, her pupils studious and prompt in their recitations. Miss Jenness should be employed another year. She is acquainted with all the scholars, understands their capacity for learning, and knows their classification. After two years of success, the district could ill afford to part with a teacher of tried ability, who has ever been found faithful to her duty.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

M. O. NICHOLS, *Prudential Committee*.

There were two terms taught by Miss Alice S. Nichols, who has had a very extensive experience in teaching. This district was very fortunate in the selection of their teacher. I can hardly conceive how they could have done better. The progress made was excellent. The committee will commit an egregious blunder, if he does not employ her again. The schoolroom requires some repairs. The seats or benches should be replaced with others more comfortable for the scholars; some of those now in use are positively injurious to the little ones, who are required to sit on them for four or five hours a day.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

H. H. THYNG, *Prudential Committee.*

This district for some time past has gained an unenviable notoriety for the disorderly conduct and irregular attendance of its pupils. With rare discretion and good judgment, the prudential committee secured the services of a teacher who at once brought order out of confusion, and succeeded in exciting an interest and enthusiasm among her scholars, that would have been commendable in any school under far different circumstances. Miss L. Cheney taught the first term, and to her we are indebted for the radical change this school has experienced. The attendance was good, the schoolroom always quiet and orderly, and all exhibited a zeal and earnestness in the prosecution of their studies, that was commendable. The second term was taught by Miss Ella D. Thorpe. Her school was well and easily governed, her instruction thorough, and the progress made was very good. I regret to note, however, considerable increase in the absentees, not as formerly one-half or more of the school, but a much larger per cent. than there should be. Will not parents make an effort to remedy this evil? Your teacher truthfully says in her remarks, "A portion of the pupils this (2d) term have evinced an interest in their studies and made good progress, but a more hearty *co-operation* on the part of some of the parents with the teacher is needed in this district, that the full benefit of the teacher's labors may be realized."

"The prize for the greatest improvement and the neatest copy-book in writing, was awarded to Mabel Folsom."

This district would do well to engage Miss Thorpe another year.

By an examination of the statistical table, it will be seen that there were five hundred and ninety-one days of absence during the second term of this district, and seven hundred and thirty-nine days during the second term of the primary school in district number one. There was a cessation or vacation of these schools near the middle of the terms; this, in my opinion, partly accounts for so much absenteeism. No school can be suspended for one or more days without suffering afterwards in the attendance of its pupils. For some reason they do not return at the commencement of the school, but come dropping in for several days after; therefore, I would suggest to committees and teachers, a continuous session of our schools, legal holidays alone excepted.

The registers were correctly kept and returned in all the districts except No. 4.

The attention of Prudential Committees is again called to chapter 81, section 15, of General Statutes :

"Every teacher, at the close of his school and at the end of each term thereof, *shall* make a return of each register or record to the school committee of the town, who shall give to him a certificate thereof; and *no teacher* shall receive payment for his services until such certificate is produced and delivered to the prudential committee."

The whole amount of money raised by the town for

the support of schools was,	\$1,323 00
Amount of library fund,	112 95
Fogg donation,	6 00

Which was divided as follows :

District No. 1,	\$601 97
" " 2,	93 78
" " 3,	150 95
" " 4,	126 15
" " 5,	168 57
" " 6,	136 33
" " 7,	158 60

Fogg donation was given to District No. 7.

Whole number of different scholars enrolled four years of age and upward, that have attended school not less than two weeks :

Boys—132. Girls—115.

The selectmen made the following return to me. Total number of children from the age of 5 to 15 :

Number of male children,	122
Number of female children,	110

Total number,	232
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H. B. BURNHAM,
School Committee.

March 3, 1877.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Number of District.	Number of Term.	Grammar School.	Primary School.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.	Length of school in weeks of five days.	Whole Number of Scholars.	Average Attendance.													Number scholars not attending any schools.	Number visits of Superintendent Committee.	Number visits of Prudential Committee.	Number visits of other Citizens.	Instances of Dismissal.	Instances of Tardiness.	Number days Absence.	Number attending Reading and Spelling.	Number attending Arithmetic.	Number attending Geography.	Number attending Grammar.	Number attending U. S. History.	Number attending Algebra.	Number attending Physiology.	Number attending Penmanship.	Wages per Month, including Board.
							28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16																
1	1	1	1	Clara T. Clark	9	34	28	4	1	32	9	40	150	34	34	25	25	25	25	3	1	1	15	\$38											
2	2	1	1	Lennie E. Cheney	12	30	22	5		15	27	72	550	30	30	25	18	18	3	5		15	40												
3	3	1	1	Laura P. Leach	8	23	18	4		10	6	31	206	23	22	10	10	10	1			18	34												
4	4	1	1	"	9	50	43	3	1	19	7	37	272	50	15	9						18	34												
5	5	1	1	"	12	48	36	4		10	18	64	739	48	17	9						18	34												
6	6	1	1	Clara A. Jenness	6	35	29	3		2	3	15	187	35	16	8						12	34												
7	7	1	1	Emma F. Jones	8	10	9	2		7		25	10	6	5	9							24	24											
8	8	1	1	"	8	10	9	2		6		22	10	7	5	9							24	24											
9	9	1	1	Clara A. Lane	12	11	11	2		15	1	2	46	12	10	6	6	6	1				24	24											
10	10	1	1	"	14	12	10	1		17	2	25	130	12	11	8	8	8	2			6	24	24											
11	11	1	1	Charles Bartlett	8	16	14	2		5		44	30	16	11	8	5	5	4	2		8	28												
12	12	1	1	Annie L. Bennett	5	17	14	1		3		33	73	17	11	8	5	5	4	4	3	11	25												
13	13	1	1	B. Jannette Hobbs	6	14	11.9	1		12	8	34	494	14	31	19	11	5	1	1	3	11	24												
14	14	1	1	Clara A. Jenness	8	43	40	2	1	17	13	4	131	37	32	23	9	9	1			13	24												
15	15	1	1	"	12	37	34	3	3	17	1	4	131	37	32	23	9	9	1			23	34												
16	16	1	1	Alice S. Nichols	9	21	20	2		17	1	15	107	21	14	11	5	5				12	30												
17	17	1	1	"	10	22	19	2		17	1	15	107	22	14	11	5	5	1			13	30												
18	18	1	1	Lennie Cheney	8	48	44	3		10	1	9	142	48	30	18	8	8		1		3	30												
19	19	1	1	Ella D. Thorpe	12	43	32	3		39	9	43	591	43	27	13	6	6				32	34												

